

#E1-1930
2/20/06
JR

Letter to the Editor:

Reference Joe Spears Free Press letter about DM&E dated Feb 9. I have a concern for the city of Waseca. DM&E railroad divides Waseca into two parts. The north side of the tracks is home to emergency services including Fire Department, Ambulance, Sheriff's Department, Hospital, and of course, businesses and homes, including mine. The south side has Police Department, City Offices, Industrial Park, businesses, and homes. A long train, for example 110 or more cars, could block all of the crossings through town at the same time. A heart attack or a fire south of the tracks could be devastating if emergency vehicles are blocked for even several minutes by a train. Mr. Shieffer has been asked by me and others to provide us with a means of getting over or under the trains in an emergency, or even for something as simple as preventing colossal traffic jams on Highway 13. It appears this will not be done. I am sure our Mayor, Roy Srp will bring the council up to date on the serious ramifications of the railroad expansion and their meeting with Mr. Sheiffer on Mar 9 will prove beneficial. Let this letter be considered a notice to the DM&E railroad and to the City of Waseca that if an incident occurs that involves the loss of life or property in Waseca that can be even remotely blamed on railroad crossings being blocked by a DM&E or other train, they can and should be considered at fault. As for congressman Thune, in my opinion he pulled a lousy unethical stunt that will hurt a lot of people, when he inserted an "Earmark" worth 2.5 Billion (that's with a B), dollars into the budget for the "railroad.


Ronald Purcell
809 7th Ave NW
Waseca, Mn. 56093


Copy: STB, EIS board, EPA, Waseca City Council, Waseca County
Commission, Minnesota Attorney General. Channel 12, Mankato.

*Victoria Rutson Chief Section of Eniron mental Analysrs
Please forward this to Victoria Rutson
I am not sure where to send it*

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*I am sorry you found for the rail road. The
sole reason for expansion is the transportation of Coal
to an area that already has Coal. This will not
benefit anyone along the route.*